

**THE MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB, INC.**  
The World's Oldest Continuously  
Active Radio Amateur Club.

Old Timers' Night : Dec. 29, 1949, Conference Rm. Milw. Public Library.

The regular meeting of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc. designated as Old Timers' Night in honor of it's Founder, Dr. L.S.H. Baird, was called to order at 8.30 P.M. by Acting Chairman C. N. Crapo, W9VD. The meeting was started with a roll call of Past Presidents of the Club, beginning with Dr. Baird and continuing as follows: (\*-Present)

Dr. L.S.H. Baird	9HO -1916-17	*16 E. R. Felber, Jr.	W9RH -1934-35
1 Dr. L.S.H. Baird	9HO -1919-20	17 Ervin W. Kreis	W9HRM-1935-36
* 2 C. N. Crapo	W9VD -1920-21	18 George Ruger	W9VWG-1936-37
3 H. F. Wareing	W9NY -1921-22	*19 Charles O. Meyer	W9GYL-1937-38
4 H. F. Wareing	W9NY -1922-23	20 Wm. Brossman	W9EQP-1938-39
5 E. T. Howell	W9CVI-1923-24	21 N. J. Richard	W9OUB-1939-40
6 E. T. Howell	W9CVI-1924-25	*22 C. N. Crapo	W9VD -1940-41
7 Chas. Polachek	W9DTK-1925-26	*23 Joe Kircher	W9NRX-1941-42
* 8 Fred Catel	W9DTK-1926-27	24 Norman Barnes	W9CDY-1942-43
* 9 F. D. Schunck	W9AFZ-1927-28	25 Norman Barnes	W9CDY-1943-44
*10 Don Seibel, Sr.	W9ESF-1928-29	26 Norman Barnes	W9CDY-1944-45
11 George Ward	W9DCB-1929-30	*27 John Scarvaci	W9GIL-1945-46
*12 L. A. Vollseger	W9ANA-1930-31	*28 Ralph Koenig	W9RUF-1946-47
*13 C. N. Crapo	W9VD -1931-32	*29 Fred Catel	W9DTK-1947-48
*14 Frank Moore	W9BVB-1932-33	*30 George Bowen	W9DWI-1948-49
15 Dr. O.A. Rosenbaum	W9GHN-1933-34	*31 Ralph Koenig	W9RUF-1949-50

\* - Present at this meeting.

The Chairman then introduced brass pounders from away back, the oldest operators first as follows: Fred Catel, W9DTK, who used the call FC in 1910; Fred Zolin, W9ONY, who signed X5, also in 1910; Bob Mirgeler, Ex 9SP, who was issued the call 9TN in 1912; Carroll E. Thomas, W9NK, with the call 9AH in 1912; Tom Bailey, 9UT in 1914; D. Wesley Correll, 9FY in 1915 (and still has the same call); Leroy A. Degner, 9FI in 1916 (and also still has the same call); Wesley Wiseman, W9OT, who was licensed as 8OT in 1917; E. W. Rupponthal, 9ANA in 1917; Don E. Seibel, 9HO in 1919; Ervin Prouss and Al Simendl, co-owners of station 9AIY in 1920; and Capt. John G. Montague, 9AGI in 1920. Ted Kercher, W6SNW, Chief Radio Electricien, 11 years in the Navy and just back from China, was at home for the holidays.

Communications were read from members not able to be present:

Dr. L. S. H. Baird, Ex9HO; Herbert F. Wareing, W9NY; Thomas Gettelmen, W9IZO; Herbert Baker, W9GSP; E. J. Stromberg, W9DC, at Lake Geneva; Past President Edward T. Howell, Ex9CVI, now a research Chemist with the DuPont Co. at Wilmington, Del.; and John Wilkinson, W9EEL, at Waukegan who sent his greetings from a hospital bed. Leo J. Topolinski, ExW9DDG read an article regarding the first ship to shore Navy contact, and excerpts from an early Annual Report of the Club. Charlie Meyer, W9GYL, read an article from Spark days suggesting that the more advanced type of communication, such as Self Excited C.W. be given consideration. Mr. Crapo read a communication from the Club Secretary in olden times to C. M. Prinslow inviting him to become a member and his subsequent acceptance and initiation. Several old timers gave short talks on early experiences and humorous incidents which came to mind.

The meeting was then turned over to Louis A. Vollseger, W9ANA, who gave blackboard talks on the theory and operation of old time Spark reception and transmission, and followed with a practical demonstration of a rotary spark gap transmitter. He used his own spark outfit which was the last of the authorized spark transmitters on the air. Because of possible interference with Television reception the operation was limited but effectively demonstrated the method of varying the speed of the rotary gap to change the note or tone of the signal, the smell of the ozone, and the slowing down of the rotary gap as the operator signed off. Old timers and young squirts alike were thrilled by the demonstration - some because it brought back pleasant memories of bygone days and others because they were witnessing something they had heard about but had never before seen.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 P.M. Members present 74 Visitors 20. After the meeting the boys retired to Stanton's Hall, 5218 E. Blue Mound Road where beer, pretzels and pop corn were enjoyed by all and where many old time experiences were retold and old acquaintances renewed. (73 de W9VD - 2111 E. Newton Ave., Milwaukee, 11, Wis.)